

STATEMENT BY MR W C WILLS, PRESIDENT

FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fairfax, Virginia

Before Defense Subcommittee, Senate Appropriations Committee, July 15, 1955

Room F39, Capitol, D C

MR CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is W C Wills, I am a business man, living in Annandale, Fairfax County, Virginia. I appear before you with your kind permission to speak for the 500 members of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, of which I am the President.

Mr Chairman, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce heartily welcomes the CIA to the proposed headquarters site for it at Langley, in Fairfax County. Our 500 members represent the great majority of the front rank business and civic leaders of Fairfax County, representing every locality in the county, and about every significant field of business and the professions.

Among all our 500 members I do not know of a single one who is not in favor of locating the CIA at Langley. We have many members of the County Chamber in the Langley-McLean area, the community closest to the proposed site, and all these members from whom we have heard are enthusiastically hopeful that the Langley site will be chosen.

The County Chamber has collected copies of resolutions and letters from various organizations and individuals in the Langley-McLean area, establishing what we view as an overwhelming majority sentiment in favor of the CIA there. In the letter from the Grange, for example 242 Grange members are represented. A copy of this has been sent to the Honorable Chairman of this Committee, along with others such as the letter from the McLean Business Association, indicating the weight of sentiment for the CIA at Langley among Langley-McLean area residents.

Our information is that the few residents who do not join in this welcome to the CIA at Langley are a very small minority. We think their fear that the CIA will "injure the community" is based on erroneous ideas of this splendid

federal agency, whose high standards are well known to most of us.

We believe that a vote in most of Fairfax County would show close to 100 per cent for the CIA at Langley, and that in the locality immediately concerned a vote right now would show at least 2 to 1 and probably much more in favor of the Langley site. Certainly the objectors appear to have been all along a very minor fraction. And of this number, some of those formerly opposed are now ardent advocates of the Langley site, because they have learned more about the CIA, and because they recognize that such a tract of government-owned land is likely to be taken soon by some major agency, and that the CIA is the one most to be preferred. For these and the other reasons outlined, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges your approval of the Langley site, and your allocation of the funds for construction of the CIA headquarters there. I thank you.

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